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## REVIEWS

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*Elements of Sociology.* By FRANK W. BLACKMAR, PH.D., Professor of Sociology and Economics in the University of Kansas. New York: The Macmillan Co.

The most essential thing in a book review is to see the point of view of the author and to make prominent the chief merit of his work.

The need which Professor Blackmar has attempted to meet in his *Elements of Sociology* is very evident from a mere glance at its table of contents. The outline, divisions, and general treatment of the subject are at once a comment upon former textbooks and an explanation of the appearance of a new one.

Professor Blackmar is aware of the fact, as other teachers of sociology must be, that there is an urgent demand for a textbook throughout the country. There are colleges in which the study of sociology has lagged for want of a suitable textbook, and other colleges which would have introduced the subject but for the same lack of a good book to begin with. Not only has the absence of a good textbook kept sociology out of the curriculums of many institutions, but has kept it out of favor among students where it has been taught. Only in universities where the resources render a textbook less necessary has sociology been able to make much headway.

This urgent need of a textbook does not imply that the books which have been heretofore used are of no value. *The Principles of Sociology* by Giddings contains subject-matter which cannot be omitted in any study of the fundamental principles of society, but it does not deal with many aspects of the subject with which the student should be made acquainted. Ward's textbook, while containing an admirable condensation of his own system of sociology, gives almost no information in regard to the ideas and points of view of other writers. *The Introduction to the Study of Society* by Small and Vincent has answered to the demand for a systematic and scientific plan for studying contemporaneous problems, but it does not now meet the need of students who wish to obtain a general view of the science up to date. Spencer's books on sociology are too large and expensive. And so none of the books thus far are free from serious objections as texts for beginners.

It is clear that Professor Blackmar proposed to write a book which would give a general view of both the theoretical and practical aspects of the science, and to make prominent the chief ideas of sociological writers to date.

Viewed in this light, the book is a success. It opens up the whole field of sociology, and, while keeping himself modestly in the background, the author attempts to give a fair and explicit presentation of the ideas of others.

The book has seven subdivisions: (1) "Nature and Import of Sociology;" (2) "Social Evolution;" (3) "Socialization and Social Control;" (4) "Social Ideals;" (5) "Social Pathology," dealing with practical subjects such as charity, poverty, crime, social degeneration; (6) "Methods of Investigation;" (7) "History of Sociology." It brings out the general views found in the works of Spencer, Gumpłowicz, Schaeffle, Lilienfeld, Mackenzie, Tarde, Le Bon, Letourneau, De Greef, Giddings, Small, Ward, Ross, Ely, Mill, Malthus, Warner, Henderson, etc.

The chief merit of the book from the theoretical side is that it gives an intelligent statement of the view-points of all the leading sociological writers. The chief merit from the practical side is that it touches upon a variety of vital and interesting problems in such a way as to tempt the student to go forward and specialize.

While it is not often easy to grasp the central idea and chief merit of a book, it is always easy to point out defects. The vast field which every book must leave uncovered gives the critic a wide range for fault-finding. In the present case the reviewer ventures to suggest that the book would have been stronger if it devoted more careful attention to Comte and Spencer. An outline of Comte's *Positive Philosophy*, and especially of his fine study of the evolution of society, would have added a few very valuable pages. More details might have been given showing Spencer's conclusions as to origins and as to the general laws governing the evolution of industry, the family, religion, etc. And some statement of the factors of society, such as Spencer gives in his first volume of *Principles of Sociology*, would have helped to indicate to the student the sources from which social laws are to be derived. The space devoted to Le Play does not seem proportionate to his contribution to sociology, as the whole modern habit of investigating actual conditions is largely the result of Le Play's example. In the discussion of crime some mention might have been made of Lombroso and the Positive

School to which he belongs. In the chapter on the "History of Sociology" it would have added to the clearness of the origin of sociology if the ideas of St. Simon and Turgot had been presented which Comte borrowed and used as the framework of his great philosophy.

Upon the whole, Professor Blackmar has the correct idea of a textbook, and the work which he offers to the public is likely to cause sociology to be introduced into many institutions, and to bring the study into more general favor among students.

The style of the book is easy, and free from any ambitious flights or phrasing, but clear and agreeable.

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*Evidence in Athenian Courts.* By ROBERT J. BONNER, PH.D.  
Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1905. Pp. 98.

Generally speaking, the separation of court from jury, of the declarers of the law from the triers of the fact, has been a prerequisite to the growth of a law of evidence. Where the court passes upon the facts in issue, as is generally the case in the countries of continental Europe, and elsewhere where the law is based upon Roman law, no systems of evidence have been developed. There the court receives all the evidence offered, trusting its own power to avoid giving undue weight to matter of slight value, and to avoid being prejudiced by evidence likely to appeal to the emotions. English courts, however, early began to fear the discretion of the jury, and to exclude much evidence from its consideration *per doubt del lay gents*. This fear is largely responsible for our law of evidence. It would be surprising, therefore, to find that the Athenians had any detailed law of evidence. In their popular courts there was no separation of judge and jury. The court, composed of a great number of citizens, passed upon the entire case. It was more like a town-meeting than like either judge or jury. Mr. Bonner's monograph astonishes one more by the comparatively large amount of law on evidence that he seems to discover than by its paucity. In reading it the feeling that he has given at least full, and possibly too full, credit to his meager materials is constantly present.

The facts adduced to show that there was a rule against irrelevant evidence (p. 14) may be taken as typical. Such a fundamental rule should leave plain traces. Of course, the most common application